

# **4 FAM 480 CLAIMS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES**

## **4 FAM 481 AUTHORITY**

*(TL:FIN-352; 5-30-95)*

Claims against the United States that are presented to the Department may be paid, settled, or denied by the Department only in accordance with authorities provided by applicable law and regulations. Claims that are not within the Department's authority to pay, settle, or deny must be forwarded by the Department to the Federal agency authorized to settle such claims. The Comptroller General has authority under 31 U.S.C. 3702 to settle claims against the United States, except as provided by other laws.

## **4 FAM 482 CLAIMS PROCESS**

*(TL:FIN-352; 5-30-95)*

Formal requirements are prescribed by statute or regulation for many types of claims, but some types of claims against the United States may be made informally and deficiencies in the statement of a claim frequently may be remedied by a supplemental submission.

## **4 FAM 483 VOUCHERING REQUIREMENTS**

*(TL:FIN-352; 5-30-95)*

A voucher is prepared for each claim for each decision document (settlement agreement or claim adjudication) that directs payment of a claim by a paying office. The decision document and any other supporting documentation are attached to the voucher.

## **4 FAM 484 TYPES OF CLAIMS**

*(TL:FIN-352; 5-30-95)*

Staff members should review 4 FAH-3 H-484 for the procedural reference sources related to the various types of claims. Decisions of the Grievance Board for properly assigned cases are final unless appealed by the grievant in the appropriate U.S. District Court and are not subject to judicial or GAO review in accordance with the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended and 22 CFR Part 16 and 22 CFR Part 901. A certifying officer has no basis to

reject or consider doubtful a voucher for a payment made in accordance with such decisions. The certifying officer should examine the voucher and decision to assure that the requested payment actually implements the decision and arithmetic computation is correct.

## **4 FAM 485 GENERAL-AVERAGE CONTRIBUTION (GAC) CLAIMS**

*(TL:FIN-352; 5-30-95)*

a. GAC claims, as defined in 6 FAM , are documented and submitted to FMP/F/DFS. Such claims for the transportation of government-owned property may be paid from appropriated funds. Under certain circumstances, claims for GAC connected with the transportation of baggage, household goods, and effects of civilian employees may also be paid from appropriated funds (see 6 FAM .)

b. When a GAC claim involves an employee's household goods, such claim is levied directly against the employee, who may be held financially responsible. If such household goods were not insured by a service floater policy provided by the carrier, the employee is required to post a bond or make a direct payment to the marine adjuster. Subject to the limitations in 6 FAM , the employee may claim reimbursement from the U.S. Government.

c. Where the employee's household goods were not insured and direct payment is not demanded by the marine adjuster, the employee may transfer financial responsibility for paying the GAC claim to FMP/F/DFS.

## **4 FAM 486 THROUGH 489 UNASSIGNED**